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NASHVILLE – Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill announced today that new projections for statewide industries and occupations are now available for Tennessee's 13 local workforce investment areas (LWIAs), which were designated by Gov. Don Sundquist with the implementation of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Projections run through the year 2008.

"We are pleased to be able to offer this type of information," Magill stated. "It is extremely thorough and provides a good outlook of Tennessee's economic future."

Statewide growth is projected at 20.4 percent during the 10-year period. Professional and technical specialty occupations are expected to be the fastest growing jobs in the state, followed by service and marketing/sales occupations.

Key areas of growth requiring a bachelor's degree or more include computer-related occupations, teachers, social workers, and marketing professionals. Computer-related occupations include systems analysts, database administrators, computer programmers and support specialists, and computer science teachers. Social workers in demand include those working in medical and psychiatric settings. Marketing personnel needed include marketing managers as well as public relations specialists and publicity writers. Other management occupations in short supply include construction and hotel/restaurant managers.

Other occupational areas requiring less training than a bachelor's degree will continue to open up due to strong growth in the construction, building materials and garden supplies industries, business services, and social service industries. The large size of the health care industry and local government will continue to create employment opportunities at many skill levels. Health care job opportunities will include medical records technicians in the metropolitan areas and emergency-medical personnel in several non-metropolitan areas.

Occupations requiring some postsecondary training include carpentry, commercial art and design, and welding. Occupations requiring high school training that have a good outlook include law enforcement personnel, child care workers and nursing assistants.

Summaries of this information will be available in 13 "In Brief" publications available at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development website, [www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/outlooks/select.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/outlooks/select.htm). For additional information, please call the Department's Research and Statistics Section at (615) 741-3639.